

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (New): A method of preparing a continuous strand mat, the strands coming from at least one roving thrown onto a conveyor belt, the method comprising:

paying-out at least one roving package supported on a spindle via the outside, a rate of the pay-out being imposed by a motor acting directly on the roving package so that the linear speed of the paid-out roving is constant; then

passing the roving through a nozzle, by passing through an entry and then an exit of the nozzle, the nozzle also provided with a transverse injection of at least one fluid, the at least one fluid being mainly directed toward the exit of the nozzle, inducing a tension toward a bottom of the roving, the at least one fluid also dividing the roving; and then

throwing the strands forming the roving in an oscillatory movement onto the conveyor belt.

Claim 13 (New): The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein a speed of the roving paid out is measured by an encoder coupled to a pulley driven by the roving package.

Claim 14 (New): The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the nozzle presents the at least one fluid with a higher head loss at the entry than at the exit.

Claim 15 (New): The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the roving includes 2 to 50 strands.

Claim 16 (New): The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fluid has a pressure of between 2 and 10 bar.

Claim 17 (New): The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the nozzle is also fed with water or with an aqueous solution or dispersion.

Claim 18 (New): The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the tension in the roving between the nozzle and the package is between 50 and 200 grams.

Claim 19 (New): An installation for manufacturing mats formed from continuous strands coming from roving packages and thrown onto a conveyor belt, comprising:

at least one roving package supported on a spindle;
means for paying out the roving coming from the package;
at least one nozzle through which the roving passes, by passing via an inlet and then an outlet of the nozzle, the nozzle also provided with a transverse injection of at least one fluid, the at least one fluid being directed mainly toward the exit of the nozzle, so as to induce a tension in the roving toward the exit; and
means for throwing the strands forming the roving onto the conveyor belt.

Claim 20 (New): The installation as claimed in claim 19, wherein a pulley is driven by the paid-out roving, and an encoder is coupled to the pulley measuring the speed of the roving.

Claim 21 (New): The installation as claimed in claim 19, wherein the nozzle is supported by the means for throwing.

Claim 22 (New): The installation as claimed in claim 19, including at least two roving packages, each associated with a nozzle.